

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RANDY AKINS,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-00-0234 MCE KJM P

vs.

ANA RAMIREZ-PALMER, et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Plaintiff is a prisoner proceeding pro se with a civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants motion for summary judgment and renewed motion for summary judgment have been denied. The case is now ready for pretrial conference and trial.

In addition to the matters already required to be addressed in the pretrial statement in accordance with Local Rule 16-281, plaintiff will be required to make a particularized showing in his pretrial statement in order to obtain the attendance of witnesses. Plaintiff is advised that failure to comply with the procedures set forth below may result in the preclusion of any and all witnesses named in his pretrial statement.

At the trial of this case, the plaintiff must be prepared to introduce evidence to prove each of the alleged facts that support the claims raised in the lawsuit. In general, there are two kinds of trial evidence: (1) exhibits and (2) the testimony of witnesses. It is the plaintiff's

responsibility to produce all of the evidence to prove his case, whether that evidence is in the form of exhibits or witness testimony. If the plaintiff wants to call witnesses to testify, he must follow certain procedures to ensure that the witnesses will be at the trial and available to testify.

I. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who Agree to Testify Voluntarily

An incarcerated witness who agrees voluntarily to attend trial to give testimony cannot come to court unless this court orders the warden or other custodian to permit the witness to be transported to court. This court will not issue such an order unless it is satisfied that:

1. The prospective witness is willing to attend; and
2. The prospective witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

With the pretrial statement, a party intending to introduce the testimony of incarcerated witnesses who have agreed voluntarily to attend the trial must serve and file a written motion for a court order requiring that such witnesses be brought to court at the time of trial. The motion must:

1. State the name, CDC Identification number, and address of each such witness; and
2. Be accompanied by affidavits showing that each witness is willing to testify and that each witness has actual knowledge of relevant facts.

The willingness of the prospective witness can be shown in one of two ways:

1. The party intending to introduce the testimony can swear by affidavit that the prospective witness has informed the party that he or she is willing to testify voluntarily without being subpoenaed. The party must state in the affidavit when and where the prospective witness informed the party of this willingness; or

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1 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective
2 witness, in which the witness states that he or she is willing to testify
3 without being subpoenaed.

4 The prospective witness' actual knowledge of relevant facts can be shown in one
5 of two ways:

6 1. The party intending to introduce the testimony can swear by affidavit
7 that the prospective witness has actual knowledge. However, this can be
8 done only if the party has actual firsthand knowledge that the prospective
9 witness was an eyewitness or an ear-witness to the relevant facts. For
10 example, if an incident occurred in the plaintiff's cell and, at the time, the
11 plaintiff saw that a cellmate was present and observed the incident, the
12 plaintiff may swear to the cellmate's ability to testify.

13 Or

14 2. The party can serve and file an affidavit sworn to by the prospective
15 witness in which the witness describes the relevant facts to which the
16 prospective witness was an eye- or ear-witness. Whether the affidavit is
17 made by the plaintiff or by the prospective witness, it must be specific
18 about what the incident was, when and where it occurred, who was
19 present, and how the prospective witness happened to be in a position to
20 see or to hear what occurred at the time it occurred.

21 The court will review and rule on the motion for attendance of incarcerated
22 witnesses, specifying which prospective witnesses must be brought to court. Subsequently, the
23 court will issue the order necessary to cause the witness' custodian to bring the witness to court.

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1 II. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Incarcerated Witnesses Who
2 Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

3 If a party seeks to obtain the attendance of incarcerated witnesses who refuse to
4 testify voluntarily, the party should submit with his or her pretrial statement a motion for the
5 attendance of such witnesses. Such motion should be in the form described above. In addition,
6 the party must indicate in the motion that the incarcerated witnesses are not willing to testify
7 voluntarily.

8 III. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who
9 Agree to Testify Voluntarily

10 It is the responsibility of the party who has secured an unincarcerated witness'
11 voluntary attendance to notify the witness of the time and date of trial. No action need be sought
12 or obtained from the court.

13 IV. Procedures for Obtaining Attendance of Unincarcerated Witnesses Who
14 Refuse to Testify Voluntarily

15 If a prospective witness is not incarcerated, and he or she refuses to testify
16 voluntarily, not earlier than four weeks and not later than two weeks before trial, the party must
17 prepare and submit to the United States Marshal a subpoena for service by the Marshal upon the
18 witness. (Blank subpoena forms may be obtained from the Clerk of the Court.) Also, the party
19 seeking the witness' presence must tender an appropriate sum of money to the witness through
20 the United States Marshal. In the case of an unincarcerated witness, the appropriate sum of
21 money is the daily witness fee of \$40.00 plus the witness' travel expenses.

22 A subpoena will not be served by the United States Marshal upon an
23 unincarcerated witness unless the subpoena is accompanied by a money order made payable to
24 the witness for the full amount of the witness' travel expenses plus the daily witness fee of
25 \$40.00, and a copy of the court's order granting plaintiff in forma pauperis status. Because no
26 statute authorizes the use of public funds for these expenses in civil cases, the tendering of

1 witness fees and travel expenses is required even if the party was granted leave to proceed in
2 forma pauperis.

3 Good cause appearing, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b), THIS COURT ORDERS
4 AS FOLLOWS:

5 1. Plaintiff shall file and serve his pretrial statement and any motions necessary to
6 obtain the attendance of witnesses at trial on or before June 15, 2006. Defendants shall file their
7 pretrial statement on or before June 29, 2006. The parties are advised that failure to file a
8 pretrial statement may result in the imposition of sanctions, including dismissal of this action.

9 2. Pretrial conference (as described in Local Rule 16-282) is set in this case for
10 July 10, 2006, before the magistrate judge. The pretrial conference shall be conducted on the file
11 only, without appearance by either party.

12 3. This matter is set for jury trial before the Honorable Morrison C. England on
13 August 23, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom #3.

14 DATED: April 25, 2006.

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17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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